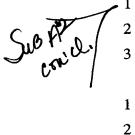
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A broadband communication system of the type utilizing xDSL								
2	packet-based technologies, the system comprising:								
3	an upstream xQSL modem;								
4	a twisted pair connected to the upstream xDSL modem;								
5	a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair;								
6	a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL								
7	modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the								
8	upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems being								
9	configured to provide packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the								
10	upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.								
1	2. The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and								
2	the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are VDSL modems.								
1	3. The system of claim 1 wherein the twisted pair is an unshielded								
2	twisted pair.								
1	4. The system of claim 1 wherein the twisted pair is a copper								
2	twisted pair.								
1	5. The system of claim 1 wherein the twisted pair is a Category								
2	3 twisted pair.								
1	6. The system of claim 1 wherein the twisted pair is a Category								
2	5 twisted pair.								
1	7. The system of claim 1-wherein the upstream xDSL modem and								
2	the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are configured for use in a packet-								

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The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem and 8. the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are configured for use in a cell-switched network:

- 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are operative to transmit to the upstream xDSL modem in a contention-based protocol.
- 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are operative to transmit to the upstream xDSL modem in a time division multiplexing-based protocol.
- 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the upstream xDSL modem is operative to transmit to the plurality of downstream xDSL modems in a broadcastbased protocol.
 - A broadband communication system of the type utilizing xDSL packet-based technologies, the system comprising:

a central office

an upstream xDSL modem in communication with the central office;

- a twisted pair connected to the upstream xDSL modem;
- a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair;
- a plurality of downstream xDSL modems, each downstream xDSL modem being in communication with a corresponding tap of the plurality of taps, the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems being configured to provide packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems.
- 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the upstream xDSL modem is located within the central office.
- 1 14. The system of claim 12 wherein the upstream xDSL modem is located outside of the central office, and the system further comprises:

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3	a fiber connecting the central office to the upstream xDSL modem.										
1	15. A broadband communication method for xDSL packet-based										
2	applications, the method comprising:										
3	broadcasting from a point, over a twisted pair, with an upstream										
4	xDSL modem;										
5	receiving at a plurality of points with a plurality of downstream xDSL										
6	modems, each downstream xDSL modern being in communication with a										
7	corresponding tap of a plurality of taps defined along the twisted pair, the upstream										
8	xDSL modem and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems being configured to										
9	provide packet-based point-to-multipoint communication between the upstream xDSL										
10	modern and the plurality of downstream xDSL moderns.										
1	16. The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem										
2	and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are VDSL modems.										
	_										
1	17. The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem										
2	and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are configured for use in a packet-										
. 3	switched network.										
1	18. The method of claim 15 wherein the upstream xDSL modem										
2	and the plurality of downstream xDSL modems are configured for use in a cell-										
3	switched network.										
1	19. The method of claim 15 further comprising:										
2	transmitting from the plurality of downstream xDSL modems to the										
3	upstream xDSL modem in a contention-based protocol.										
1	/) 20. The method of claim 15 further comprising:										

upstream xDSL modem in a time division multiplexing-based protocol.

transmitting from the plurality of downstream xDSL modems to the



1		21.	The	method	d of	claim	15	wherein	broadcasting	further
2	comprises:									
3		transm	itting	from t	he u	pstream	xD	SL mode	m to the plui	ality of